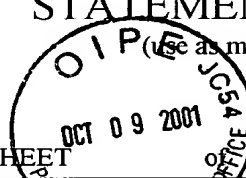


Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → [+]

PTO/SB08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002 OMB 0651-0031
Patent and Trademark Office; U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

<p style="text-align: center;">Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">COMPLETE IF KNOWN</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Application Number</td> <td>09/778,687</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Confirmation Number</td> <td>5337</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>February 7, 2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Mark J. Kline</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Art Unit</td> <td>3761</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>8415</td> </tr> </table>	Application Number	09/778,687	Confirmation Number	5337	Filing Date	February 7, 2001	First Named Inventor	Mark J. Kline	Group Art Unit	3761	Examiner Name		Attorney Docket Number	8415
Application Number	09/778,687														
Confirmation Number	5337														
Filing Date	February 7, 2001														
First Named Inventor	Mark J. Kline														
Group Art Unit	3761														
Examiner Name															
Attorney Docket Number	8415														

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. PATENT DOCUMENT Number	Kind Code ² (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
<i>SW</i>	1	3,305,878		Hellbaum	02/28/1967	1
	2	5,299,336		Marteeny	04/05/1994	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS*	Cite No. ¹	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT Office ³ Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
<i>SW</i>	3	FR 2620323	A1	Philippe et al.	03/17/1989	<i>drawings only</i>	
	4	GB 2263232	A	Ralston	07/21/1993		
	5	FR 2136191	A	Heuser Helmut	12/22/1972		<i>drawings only</i>

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ⁶

EXAMINER <i>Amisue J. Webb</i>	DATE CONSIDERED <i>4-3-02</i>
--------------------------------	-------------------------------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.